

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 EURE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /144 W

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O R 031859Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECST TE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5:24

IN*O AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT CAIRO *

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT ALGIERS

USMISSION GENEVA

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E*O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FR, XF

SUBJECT: POMPIDOU'S COMMENTS ON THE MIDDLE EAST

REF: PARIS 0186

1. PRESIDENT POMPIDOU'S JANUARY 3 REMARKS ON THE MIDDLE EAST DURING HIS ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S CEREMONY FOR THE PRESS UNDERLINE CONTINUING FRENCH SKEPTICISM ABOUT THE GENEVA TALKS AND DISGRUNTLEMENT AT NOT PARTICIPATING IN CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS. POMPIDOU WENT SO FAR AS TO ADMIT THAT, BARRING SOME UNEXPECTED EVENT, THE TALKS MIGHT LEAD TO SOME MILITARY DISENGAGEMENT AND THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF A PEACE AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT OR SOME OTHER NEIGHBOR SHOULD NOT BE EXCLUDED.

2. HE HASTENED TO ADD, HOWEVER, THAT THESE AGREEMENTS WILL NOT BE RECOGNIZED AND ACCEPTED BY ALL THE POPULATIONS OF THE REGION AND THAT THE AGREEMENT "WOULD APPEAR MORE LIKE A PROLONGED
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ARMISTICE THAN A TRUCE PEACE." HE REPEATED HIS VIEW THAT THE

INTEREST OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION, SURELY ISRAEL, IS TO ARRIVE AT AN AGREEMENT ACCEPTED BY ALL AS DEFINITIVE AND A REAL GUARANTEE OF THE SORT THAT WILL NOT BE QUESTIONED.

3. POMPIDOU THEN SAID THAT FRANCE WOULD BE READY TO CONTRIBUTE TO A GUARANTEE, EVEN TO A SECURITY FORCE. HE BELIEVED "THAT THE TACTIC ADOPTED BY THE TWO POWERS, WHICH THEY HAVE IMPOSED ON THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION, TO STOP FIGHTING THEN TO TALK, CAN LEAD TO RESULTS AND FRANCE WILL DO NOTHING TO IMPEDE THEM." HE BELIEVED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS WAS NOT THE DEFINITIVE PATH. HE EXCLUDED, NONETHELESS, A FRENCH INITIATIVE, SAYING IT WOULD NOT BE WELL RECEIVED, "EITHER BY ISRAEL, WHICH BELIEVES THAT WE WISH ITS DEATH, OR BY EGYPT, WHATEVER IT SAYS, BECAUSE IT HAS CHOSEN ANOTHER PATH."

4. POMPIDOU SPOKE FURTHER ON THE MIDDLE EAST LATER IN THE DAY WHILE ACCEPTING THE CREDENTIALS OF THE NEW EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR NAGUIB KADRI. HE SAID IN PART: "WE WISH TO HOPE THAT THE NEGOTIATION WHICH HAS JUST BEGUN IN GENEVA WILL FINALLY PREPARE SUCH A (REAL) PEACE IN THAT REGION....FRANCE, FOR ITS PART, IS READY TO SPARE NO EFFORT TO CONTRIBUTE, WHEN THE MOMENT COMES, TO HASTEN AND GUARANTEE THE REALIZATION (OF THAT HOPE)." POMPIDOU ALSO MENTIONED AGAIN THE MEDITERRANEAN, "WHICH CONSTITUTES A CONNECTING LINK BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES", AS BECOMING AGAIN A SEA OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY.
DECONTROL JANUARY 1975.
STONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION, PEACE TALKS, NEGOTIATIONS, AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS00213
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740164/aaaacilm.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: PARIS 0186
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 APR 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <22 APR 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POMPIDOU'S COMMENTS ON THE MIDDLE EAST
TAGS: PFOR, FR, XF, EG, (POMPIDOU), (KADRI, NAGUIB)
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005